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Appl. No. 10/526,109  
Amdt. dated February 12, 2007  
Reply to Office Action of January 11, 2007

PATENT

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) A polynucleotide encoding ~~the protein of claim 1 or a portion thereof~~ a protein selected from (a) to (d), or a portion thereof:
  - (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1;
  - (b) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein one or more amino acids have been modified by deletion, substitution, addition, and/or insertion;
  - (c) a protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions with a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2; and
  - (d) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence having 60% homology to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.
3. (Original) The polynucleotide of claim 2, which comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.
- 4-5. (Cancelled)
6. (Original) A pharmaceutical comprising the polynucleotide of claim 2.
7. (Original) The pharmaceutical of claim 6, which is used to prevent, improve, or treat cardiac failure, cardiomegaly, myocarditis, cardiomyopathy, arteriosclerosis, arteriosclerosis obliterans, or ischemic heart disease.